

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 /091 W

----- 084195

R 121525Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5189

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0570

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, SF, ZA, CG, BC

SUBJ: ZAIRE COPPER SHGMENTS THROUGH S. AFRICA

REF: JOHANNESBURG 359

1. RECENT NEWS REPORTS, CONFIRMED TO US BY SHIPPING COMPANY REP HERE, INDICATE THAT COPPER FROM ZAIRE IS BEING SENT BY RAIL THROUGH ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA TO S. AFRICAN PORT OF E. LONDON. FIRST CONSIGNMENT WAS LOADED ONTO THE VESSEL PEARL ISLAND LAST WEEK DESTINED FOR NORTHERN EUROPEAN PORTS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, SOME OF THE SHIPMENT ARRIVED AT E. LONDON ON ZAIRE RAILWAY CARS AND SOME ON CARS BELONGING TO RHODESIAN RAILWAYS.

2. THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGE OF S. AFRICAN RAILWAYS WAS QUOTED AS HAVING CONFIRMED THE REPORT AND SAID S. AFRICA WAS "HELPING OUT" WHILE ZAIRE'S TRADITIONAL RAIL LINKS WERE CUT. AN EAST LONDON NEWSPAPER, THE DAILY DISPATCH, REPORTED THAT IT WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO PHOTOGRAPH LOADING OF THE COPPER ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICATION OF SUCH A PHOTOGRAPH MIGHT

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EMBARRASS THE SAG AND CAUSE SANCTIONS AGAINST NEIGHBORING

STATES. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT EAST LONDON IS EXPECTED
TO HANDLE 30,000 TONS OF COPPER AND 10,000 TONS OF REFINED
CONCENTRATE DURING THIS YEAR.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COPPER, PFOR, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, TRADE AGREEMENTS, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-1060
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760564/aaaacctb.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JOHANNESBURG 359
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE COPPER SHGMTMENTS THROUGH S. AFRICA
TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, SF, ZA, CG, BC
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
DURBAN
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006